ICARC NEWSLETTER

April 30 2026

Much thanks to the ARRL Foundation
for its support provided to the
ICARC tower and repeater
upgrades at its remote site

Officers for 2026:
President – Bill Robinson, KC3ZAF
Vice President - Joe Rougeux, KD3BCW
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Larry Freeman, N3LT

Board of Directors for 2026
1. Craig Bigler, AB3XA
2. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
3. Ralph Timblin, N3UDI
4. Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Check out the new website look for W3BMD, courtesy of Ian Bigler-KC3DTE.
https://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/

Things going on at the ICARC Remote site on Rhine Rd.:

April 27, 2026 A couple of ICARC traveled to the Rhine Rd. site and cut approximately two thirds of the old steel guy wires into manageable lengths less than four feet. Also a new led light was placed over the repeater rack. It is very bright there now.

It appears that the site has been mowed. Thanks Deryl!

Announcements:

The ICARC meetings are, generally, scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The next ICARC meeting is on Tue, May 5, 2026, 6:30 pm at the Indiana, PA Eat 'n Park Restaurant.

The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on each Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.910/146.310 MHz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club). There will often be a second net starting immediately following the primary net with the W3BMD/2 repeater, on 146.655/.055 MHz located at ICARC's Remote site. (Tones for both are 131.8 Hz)

Current Net Control Operators: Phil Kopczyk, Chris Edwards, Stuart Younkin, and Ralph Timblin. We thank you fellows very much. We can always use more.

Links for Tower Take-down

Courtesy of Deryl Mack , KC3YZW

https://youtu.be/c1LG7SRu9b0

https://youtu.be/risblzrA_hY

https://youtu.be/zCV7vwqTMjk

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading? Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Shown below are websites where you can look into testing online.

https://wm7x.net/ One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.
https://kl7aa.org/vex/remote-testing/
https://hamstrung/sessions/remote Lists remote and in person test sessions.

On the National Scene:

Excerpt From the ARRL education@arrl.org

New Technician Class Question Pool begins July 1st

Teaching Technician Class element 2, whether in a classroom or over the internet, is a challenge. While the questions and answers are basic compared to the General- and Extra-Class question pools, our biggest job is being entertainers, keeping our students excited about getting on the air and enjoying our hobby and service. This means performing lots of live demos, making fun ham contacts over the air in class, and encouraging at-home study before each class session with our pre-test study questions. It is important to have "stage presence", using a friendly voice, slightly louder than just talking, to command the class's attention.
Your first few sessions for Technician element 2 need to build your students' confidence that ham radio will be fun, exciting, and rewarding. Then, once we have 'em hooked, we work the 400+ questions! If we start our first class session with "E = I × R" without selling our students on ham radio, we might overwhelm them, and attendance could shrink.

This past year, our Question Pool Committee worked hard to modify over 150 questions and answers for the Technician Class exam pool, making them more readable for those non-technical folks entering our amateur radio service and hobby.

The test is not being dumbed down, but rather being made more concise and clear. For example, in the phrase, "identify in the diagram a SPST switch" SPST will be spelled out as "Single Pole, Single Throw switch". The Question Pool Committee also used ExamTools data to study which Technician test questions were missed the most and revised a few answer choices to make them easier to comprehend.

Lucky for us, they kept the same correct answer for each question. So, for those of us who use PowerPoint slides in the classroom, our slides will still be usable after the July 1st test-rotation date.
In fact, about *half* of the test pool for the 2026 – 2030 Technician-Class element 2 remains totally unchanged — this is more good news for many of us who bring in fellow instructors to help lead some of the demonstrations at specific page numbers.

More good news for instructors — 25 new questions take the place of some of the older, more complicated technology questions.

On top of that, for those who use the ARRL Gordon West books, ARRL Acquisitions Editor Mark Derks, KC1RVQ, along with Book Editor Makenzie Ozycz and Assistant Production Supervisor Terese Newman, KC1YPP, were able to maintain the same page numbers in the new book. We know many of you have your own handouts, with page numbers guiding students to see the explanations our books offer — those page references remain the same!

ARRL
225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1400
www.arrl.org · 860-594-0200

© 2026 - ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®

ICARC Summary Meeting, Minutes, 03/03/2026 .

President (KC3ZAF) called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: DONE

2. Roll Call: 13 Attendees-Attendance: 13 Attendees – KC3ZAF, KD3BCW, N3VFK, AB3XA, N3LT, K3PJ, N3ARA, WA3BDR, K3FSE, K3VAR, N3QM, W3CDH, N3UDI

3. Treasurer's Report: The financial report provided by Chris Edwards was voted upon and accepted.

4. Trustee's Report: No trustees report due to absence (illness) of trustee.

5. Secretary's Report & Grant Committee update: Minutes from 02/06/2026 were read and approved. Progress report on grant was given indicating that additional funds were found after the January bank statement showed that all bank checks had cleared, leaving a higher balance than expected in the grant account.

The secretary also reported that the results from the PAQSO party were available. He gave a brief indicating that we lost 25 contacts due to logging errors.

6. Old business: Based upon the vote from the previous month's meeting, the Blue Spruce Park Lodge building was rented for next year's Winter Field Day (WFD) for one day on Saturday, Jan 23, 2027

7. New Business: Bill Robinson, KC3ZAF, made a motion to donate $50.00 to QSL.NET in keeping with the usual practice to support the W3BMD web site source. The motion was seconded by Larry Freeman, N3LT. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Ian Bigler, KC3DTE, made a proposal by proxy to change the w3bmd web page. Larry Freeman passed around a photo of the first page of the proposed new site for folks to take a look at. The general consensus was that it looks good and should be adopted. It will be taken under consideration by the Board of Directors.

Chris Edwards brought up the need to pay the postal service fees. There was some discussion as to why it is necessary and a motion was made by Larry Freeman to pay for the year. the motion was seconded by Bill Robinson. The motion passed by majority vote.

Larry suggested a work day at the Rhine Rd remote site for connecting and trimming the guy wire ground leads and cleanup so mowing can be done in the Spring. March 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM was agreed upon, weather permitting. No vote was taken.

Larry announced that he and Cass have decided to have a Saturday event involving a Loop on the Ground antenna construction project combined with a hot-dog night. It will be March 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM, weather permitting. Located at the Rhine Rd. Site

8. Adjournment: Motion made for adjournment and voted upon and accepted. Meeting was adjourned at 19:08 hours

A program was presented by Ralph Timblin-N3UDI about doing Parks on the Air (POTA). It was well received and very interesting.